Setting up of Kisan Vikas Parishads

1952. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Kisan Vikas Parishads so as to resolve the problems of farmers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE **MINISTER** OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up **Kisan** Vikas Parishads. A National Commission on Farmers is already functioning to look into various issues confronting agriculture and farmers and **to make** appropriate recommendations.

Spurious pesticides

1953. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spurious pesticides are flooding the market and these are costing heavily to the agrochem industry;

(b) if so, the magnitude of this menace;

(c) whether Government are aware that these pesticides are a threat to the farmers and the agrochemical industry; and

(d) if so, the action plan of Government to curb this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Approximately 3.5% of pesticides samples analysed in States Pesticides Testing Laboratories are found to be misbranded. The quality of pesticides is regulated under the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 and its Rules. The Registration Committee, constituted under this Act, registers pesticides only after being satisfied of their efficacy. The State Governments then issues licensees for the manufacture and sale of registered pesticides. Quality assurance of pesticides is ensured by the State Governments through regular drawl and analysis of pesticide sample through a network of Insecticides Inspectors, Insecticides Analysts and Pesticides Testing Laboratories.

The Act provides for punishment to formulators, manufacturers and vendors of spurious and sub standard pesticides.

Foreign-funding of agricultural projects

1954. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural projects being funded by foreign countries and international agencies;

(b) the present status of the ongoing agricultural projects, State-wise;

(c) whether any fresh projects seeking external assistance has been received from the States; and

(d) if so, the details of the same and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Harvesting agricultural biodiversity

1955. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government are utilizing agricultural biodiversity to reduce poverty and hunger and also to improve the lives of rural people in a sustained manner; and

(b) the manner in which biodiversity helps in meeting the millennium development goals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Development of new crop varieties having traits for resistance to pests, diseases and enviornmental stresses derived from agro-biodiversity is the scientific approach to extend the benefits of agricultural biodiversity for enhancing the agricultural production and reducing hunger and poverty.